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United Nations

Statistical Commission

Report on the forty-third session (28 February-2 March 2012)

Economic and Social Council

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Chapter I

Matters calling for action by the Economic and Social Council or brought to its attention

A. Draft decision for adoption by the Council

1. The Statistical Commission recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session and the provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council:

(a) Takes note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session;

(b) Decides that the forty-fourth session of the Commission shall be held in New York from 26 February to 1 March 2013;

(c) Approves the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda and annotations

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

3. Programme review: topic to be determined.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme

(c) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

(d) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(e) Employment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the International Labour Organization

(f) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Culture statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(h) Crime statistics.

Documentation

Joint report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the inter-agency and expert group on agricultural and rural statistics

Report of the Global Steering Committee

(c) Industrial statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

(e) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

(f) Service statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

(g) Tourism statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations World Tourism Organization

(h) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(i) Price statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

(j) Statistics of science and technology;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(k) Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Delhi Group on Informal Sector Statistics

(l) Integrated economic statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Environmental-economic accounting;

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting

(c) Statistics for economies based on natural resources.

Documentation

Report of the Ulaanbaatar Group

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

(c) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

(d) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century

Report of the Secretary-General

(e) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(g) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Regional statistical development;

Documentation

Report of the Economic Commission for Africa

(i) National quality assurance frameworks;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations.

Documentation

Report of the Friends of the Chair

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fifth session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session.

B. Decisions brought to the attention of the Council

2. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

43/101
Programme review: population and housing censuses

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the programme review on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses (see E/CN.3/2012/2) and expressed its appreciation to the United States Census Bureau for its efforts, noted with appreciation the contribution of the 122 countries to the conduct of the review, and fully endorsed the recommendations contained in the report of the programme review;

(b) Noted the successful implementation of the 2010 round of censuses so far and that only a handful of countries or areas show no indication to conduct a census, as compared to the previous 2000 round, and urged all countries, particularly those that have not yet had a census in the current round, to make every effort to complete census-related activities by 2014;

(c) Noted the support of the United Nations Statistics Division, the United Nations Population Fund and other international agencies for countries in census-taking, and also noted the activities of regional institutions, especially the regional commissions, in support of census-taking and expressed its appreciation for their efforts;

(d) Noted the importance of country-to-country assistance, particularly South-South cooperation, in the conduct of censuses, and urged the United Nations Statistics Division and the regional commissions to continue to promote the exchange of country experience through regional and international workshops;

(e) Noted that at this stage in the 2010 round the majority of countries have moved from data collection to data analysis and dissemination, and, in that regard, requested countries to significantly enhance data exchange among countries, especially with respect to the stock of international migrants and other cross-border issues;

(f) Took note of the need at this stage in the current census round to analyse the data and to understand and assess the degree of undercount and overcount, and requested the United Nations Statistics Division and relevant agencies to undertake a programme to enhance the conduct of post-enumeration surveys and related activities by countries, provide post-enumeration survey manuals and enhance dissemination of post-enumeration survey information in order to assist them assess the coverage of their censuses;

(g) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division and international and regional organizations to work towards viable methods for estimating both direct and indirect cost of censuses and conduct cost-benefit analyses across countries and regions, taking into account the factors of quality, duration and coverage and also providing a unit of measurement for country comparison;

(h) Welcomed the suggestion to initiate early enough a programme of work for the third revision of the *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses*, including the core census topics and the list of recommended tabulations;

(i) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to establish an Expert Group to begin work to assess the challenges faced in the 2010 round, discuss emerging trends, compile lessons learned and address a number of issues, including the desirable data release timelines, the use of information technology, legal provisions for privacy, confidentiality and contracting for outsourced census

operations, and the use of administrative records and registers, where possible, to complement census information and reduce costs;

(j) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare a comprehensive report by the end of the 2010 census round on the implementation of the 2010 World Population and Housing Programme and to prepare a timetable for the development of the 2020 World Population and Housing Programme, including the revision of the *Recommendation and Principles of Population and Housing Census*;

(k) Requested that the 2020 round of census should have three reviews: at the beginning, at the midpoint and at the end, to be able to give appropriate and timely attention to census challenges;

(l) Requested countries to do their census reviews after their census;

(m) Requested the United Nations Statistics Division to prepare by 2015 a draft resolution on the 2020 World Population and Housing Programme for approval by the Statistical Commission and endorsement by the Economic and Social Council.

43/102
Crime statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico (INEGI) on crime statistics (E/CN.3/2012/3), and expressed appreciation to INEGI for its efforts to undertake this work;

(b) Welcomed the establishment of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime-INEGI Center of Excellence for Statistical Information on Governance, Victimization of Crime, Public Security and Justice;

(c) Noted the organization by the Center of its first international conference on crime statistics in May 2012;

(d) Took note that the intergovernmental body mandated to address issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice is the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is the focal point in the United Nations system for the related statistics;

(e) Acknowledged the existence of different criminal justice systems in countries, and the need for national statistical offices to give sufficient consideration to the challenges of producing and disseminating crime statistics within the national context and to work with partners in the criminal justice system;

(f) Noted that national victimization surveys, often conducted by the national statistical offices, are an important instrument to collect information on crimes and requested that efforts be devoted to establish clear guidance on conducting such surveys to ensure comparability of results across countries;

(g) Requested INEGI and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report back to the United Nations Statistical Commission at its forty-forth session in 2013 on the following topics:

(i) A road map of the steps needed to further develop crime statistics, identifying the statistical issues to be addressed, the role of the National Statistical Offices in compiling and disseminating crime statistics, the type of technical assistance required, and related standards and methods;

(ii) The feasibility of developing an international classification on crime for statistical purposes, keeping in mind the needs of different players in the criminal justice system, and to ensure international comparability of crime statistics;

(iii) The way the United Nations Statistical Commission and the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice could cooperate, with regard to the development of crime statistics.

43/103
National accounts

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2012/4), and expressed its appreciation of its work over the past year;

(b) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (SNA) (E/CN.3/2012/5), thanked the Australian Bureau of Statistics and countries in the Friends of the Chair group for their contributions and endorsed the detailed recommendations put forward under the three principles of the global implementation programme, namely: the adoption of a strategic national planning framework; coordination, monitoring and reporting; and improving statistical systems;

(c) Agreed with the conclusion of the Friends of the Chair group that limited political support and unavailability of requisite basic economic statistics are the main barriers to the implementation of SNA in a range of countries and that the lack of requisite basic statistics could be addressed by considering the national accounts implementation programme in the broader context of the development of economic statistics;

(d) Requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to incorporate the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair in the global initiative on the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics;

(e) Expressed appreciation for the activities of international organizations, regional commissions and other regional organizations to facilitate the implementation of the *System of National Accounts, 2008*[1] (2008 SNA) and noted the interest expressed by all regional commissions to more actively contribute to and participate in the work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts;

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XVII.29.

(f) Commended the progress made in translating the 2008 SNA into languages other than English and noted that draft versions of the 2008 SNA are available in Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian; in this context, it expressed its deep appreciation to the institutions and countries involved in the translation process, and requested that the process of finalizing and publishing the translations be expedited to help countries with the implementation of its recommendations;

(g) Endorsed the proposed assessment by the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts on Member States' implementation status and needs so as to identify areas where technical assistance and capacity-building are necessary and to support the development of strategic programme management frameworks and detailed national implementation programmes by Member States;

(h) Endorsed the programme of work of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts and the Advisory Expert Group on National Accounts, including their work on guidance on the measurement of research and development, and on measurement of financial services, the preparation of quarterly national accounts, the compilation of expenditure components of gross domestic product, incorporating the contribution of the informal sector for an exhaustive measure of gross domestic product, household sector issues, including distributional aspects of household income and well-being, and the development of necessary data structure definitions for future data exchange of national accounts data in the Statistical Data and Metadata Exchange initiative, and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to report on the outcomes to the Commission in due course;

(i) Recognized the importance of developing training material to facilitate capacity-building for the compilation of national accounts and supporting economic statistics, and welcomed the progress in this field, including the establishment of a dedicated knowledge base of training material for the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics, covering the source data and implementation procedures;

(j) Appreciated the completion of and progress regarding a number of manuals, handbooks and guidance notes to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics, and urged the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to expedite the development of the handbooks and guidance notes;

(k) Took note of the initiative for developing quarterly sectoral accounts, balance sheets and flow of funds within the framework of the 2008 SNA, and requested the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts to exercise flexibility in its implementation;

(l) Noted the finalization of the draft guidelines on integrated economic statistics by the Friends of the Chair on integrated economic statistics, welcomed the issue of the white cover version for circulation to member countries and recognized that it provides a strong basis for the development of basic economic statistics in an integrated manner to facilitate the implementation of the 2008 SNA and supporting economic statistics;

(m) Welcomed the website on good practices on integrated economic statistics, and requested countries to provide case studies on compilation practices on economic statistics for information-sharing.

43/104
Agricultural statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2012/6), and extended its appreciation for the excellent work done to Brazil and the Friends of the Chair, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Bank and all the regional and national stakeholders that contributed to the preparation of the action plan to implement the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics;

(b) Fully endorsed the action plan and its governance arrangements;

(c) Asked the Steering Committees to take consideration of varying regional and country circumstances and specific needs, especially of countries in conflict and fragile States;

(d) Emphasized the importance of coordination and governance between the global, regional and national levels, local government and development partners;

(e) Requested the Global Steering Committee to report back to the Statistical Commission on an annual basis through the global office on the implementation of the Global Strategy;

(f) Noted that the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income concluded its work and expressed its thanks for the excellent work done by the Group;

(g) Expressed appreciation to the Wye Group for the finalization of the revised *Wye Group Handbook: Statistics on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income*, and acknowledged that it was a major contribution to the statistical measurement of these areas;

(h) Endorsed the proposal to establish an inter-agency and expert group to bring countries and agencies together to develop and document good practices and guidelines on concepts, methods and statistical standards for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. The inter-agency and expert group would replace the Friends of the Chair on agricultural statistics and the Wye Group;

(i) Asked the inter-agency and expert group to report back to the Commission on its activities when appropriate.

43/105
Environmental-economic accounting

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Expressed its appreciation for the work done by the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting and recognized the significant contribution of the Chair, the Bureau, the members of the editorial board and the editor, as well as the countries and agencies, that have participated in the consultation process;

(b) Appreciated the transparent process for developing the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA) central framework, and in particular the various rounds of global consultation on the outcome papers on the revision issues, the consolidated recommendations on the issues, the individual chapters and, finally, the complete draft of the SEEA central framework;

(c) Agreed to adopt the 2012 SEEA central framework as the initial version of the international standard for environmental-economic accounts, subject to further revision, acknowledging that further improvements on measurement are necessary on specific issues;

(d) Recognized that, like all international statistical standards, the SEEA central framework will undergo revisions taking into consideration lessons learned through implementation and methodological advances, and requested the Committee to establish an update process modelled on the one used for the System of National Accounts;

(e) Requested that the introduction of the SEEA central framework make detailed reference to a comprehensive research agenda and the process for updating the standard, and recognized that the SEEA implementation should be considered as a long-term programme, to be implemented flexibly and incrementally, giving full consideration to national circumstances and requirements;

(f) Urged the Committee of Experts to complete the supporting documents of the central framework, including revising the introduction as mentioned in subparagraph (e), adding the research agenda, tables populated with illustrative numbers, glossary, annexes and list of references;

(g) Urged the Committee to continue its work on the development of a detailed strategy for the global and regional implementation programme for SEEA, in particular a road map for countries to follow, and encouraged Member States and regional or international organizations to initiate compilation activities in accordance with the central framework;

(h) Recognized that the detailed implementation strategy for SEEA should reflect the need for regional and subregional coordination, given the different levels of statistical development, and emphasize an advocacy strategy to engage users, especially those in policy formulation and analysis;

(i) Requested international agencies and other donors to make resources available for technical assistance for the implementation of SEEA and the development of basic economic and environmental statistics in countries, in particular in developing countries;

(j) Took note of the programme of work of the Committee of Experts with regard to the work on the SEEA experimental ecosystem accounts and the SEEA extensions and applications, and requested the Committee to evaluate progress made at its next meeting in June 2012 and their relevance to official statistics with the objective of assessing whether the two documents could be submitted to the next Statistical Commission for further consideration;

(k) Requested the Committee to promote that SEEA be recognized as the statistical framework in the assessment of the relationship between the economy and the environment and to publicize this at major international events, in particular at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, for this purpose;

(l) Took note of the programme of work on SEEA for Energy, and encouraged the Committee to undertake global consultation and consult with the relevant city groups to finalize the draft for adoption by the Statistical Commission in 2013.

43/106
Environment statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/9), and acknowledged the significant progress achieved in the revision process;

(b) Approved the general direction as described in the document, and the work done so far on the chapters of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the core set of environment statistics as presented in the background document;

(c) Reiterated the importance of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics as a tool for developing environment statistics to inform on the state of the environment, support policymaking, assist in the compilation of indicators and provide source statistics for SEEA;

(d) Supported the finalization of the process, which is to include further consultations with the Expert Group on the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics, other experts, international organizations and specialized agencies followed by a global consultation with Member States;

(e) Endorsed the pilot process for the core set of environment statistics, recognizing that some Member States have already expressed their willingness to take part as pilot countries;

(f) Noted the need for continued capacity-building for the development of environment statistics at the national level during the implementation phase of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the core set of environment statistics;

(g) Requested that the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics and the core set of environment statistics, together with a plan of implementation, be presented for final adoption by the Statistical Commission at its forty-fourth session in 2013.

43/107
Energy statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the compilation of natural gas statistics (E/CN.3/2012/10), and recognized the importance of the initiative on natural gas statistics;

(b) Fully endorsed the proposed activities, in particular the development of manuals on methodological guidelines on natural gas statistics compilation, with special attention given to confidentiality issues;

(c) Urged that training activities based on these guidelines be conducted to build statistical capacity in countries to produce the necessary statistics;

(d) Supported the establishment of a world-wide database on natural gas statistics, in full coordination and cooperation with other relevant agencies, especially the International Energy Agency, taking into account the need for methodological consistency with existing data collections.

43/108
Statistics for economies based on natural resources

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the initiative and agreed to the creation of an Ulaanbaatar city group with the goals of activities as specified;

(b) Asked that the group consider contributions of the mining sector to the economy, as well as positive and negative impacts on the society and the environment in the scope of its work programme;

(c) Requested that the group provide opportunity for countries and international organizations to participate in the work of the city group and urged that full coordination with other city groups, such as the London Group on Environmental Accounting and the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics, be ensured;

(d) Took note of the proposed five-year term limit for the city group;

(e) Requested that the group report back to the Commission at its sessions in 2013, 2015 and 2017 and provide a detailed work programme at the 2013 session.

43/109
Information and communication technology statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report (E/CN.3/2012/12), and congratulated the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development on the work carried out in the past years;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in the availability of information and communications technology (ICT) statistics, as shown in the tables, but also recognized the work still to be done;

(c) Agreed with recommendations contained in the report on approaches to enhance ICT statistics;

(d) Fully endorsed the revised and extended core list of ICT indicators, asked for its wide circulation so that countries and other agencies can use it as a reference;

(e) Asked that special attention be paid to the provision of metadata, in particular computational procedures, with published ICT data;

(f) Asked the Partnership to continue reviewing the indicators in light of rapid technological advances and widespread use of ICT technology;

(g) Recognized the importance of capacity-building activities, welcomed the activities of some development partners in this area and urged other development partners to provide assistance in this regard;

(h) Agreed to include ICT statistics in its multi-annual work programme and requested the Partnership to report on progress made at the session of the Commission in 2014.

43/110
National quality assurance frameworks

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2012/13) and the accompanying background documents and commended the Expert Group on a job well done;

(b) Fully endorsed the generic national quality assurance framework template and encouraged countries to use it. In this context, it particularly welcomed the fact that some countries had already started a process of using the template and the supporting materials developed by the Expert Group;

(c) Asked the Expert Group to develop an action plan to assist countries in the implementation of their national quality assurance frameworks and supported the plan to pilot the generic national quality assurance framework template in some countries with different types of statistical systems, and to report back to the Statistical Commission in due course on the lessons learned during the piloting process;

(d) Encouraged international, regional and subregional entities to work along with the United Nations Statistics Division in assisting countries to implement quality assurance programmes;

(e) Emphasized that a quality assurance framework must not be seen as an end in itself, and that regular review and continuous improvements of the framework are essential;

(f) Stressed the importance of having a knowledge base on quality assurance, including good practices, glossaries, examples and metadata, upon which countries could draw for guidance;

(g) Asked the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to take on this topic, in particular the harmonization among different international quality assessment frameworks, as well as rendering assistance to countries in the implementation of their regional or national quality assurance frameworks.

43/111
Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Friends of the Chair on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles (E/CN.3/2012/14) and the progress made in redrafting the preamble;

(b) Took note of the suggestions made by Member States regarding the redrafting of the preamble and the development of guidelines to support the implementation of the Principles. In this context, it invited the Friends of the Chair to consider, in particular, the following issues:

(i) The question to whom are the Fundamental Principles and their preamble addressed;

(ii) The applicability of the implementation of Principles beyond national statistical agencies to all entities engaged in the production of official statistics, including those at subnational level;

(iii) The need to highlight the importance of professional independence of national statistical offices and to obtain explicit Government commitment in this regard;

(iv) The role of the international statistical community in the effective monitoring and support of the implementation of the Principles;

(c) Agreed with the workplan to:

(i) Assess the implementation of the Fundamental Principles over the next 12 months;

(ii) Propose strategies on how the Principles could be further re-enforced; and

(iii) Develop a practical guide for their implementation;

(d) Took note of the various ongoing activities at the national and regional levels to support the implementation of the Principles and encouraged all countries to give the highest importance to the implementation of the Principles;

(e) Requested the Friends of the Chair to report back to the Commission at its forty-fourth session in 2013 with a finalized proposal of a revised preamble for adoption by the Commission and an assessment of the implementation of the Fundamental Principles.

43/112
Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.3/2012/15), which addressed concerns raised at the forty-second session of the Statistical Commission; stressed the importance of effective coordination on statistical programmes within the United Nations system; and agreed that the time was right for a general review and assessment of the existing coordination mechanisms;

(b) Agreed with the proposal to form a Friends of the Chair group, which would be tasked to reflect on the current situation and to make proposals for

improved mechanisms; a new terms of reference would be prepared taking into account the comments received;

(c) Affirmed the need for the active and full participation in the Friends of the Chair group by representatives from relevant United Nations system entities with knowledge of the relevant institutional background, and noted with appreciation the interest from Member States and United Nations entities to participate in this process;

(d) Entrusted the Chair of the Statistical Commission, in consultation with the Bureau and the co-Chairs of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, to address relevant issues for the functioning of the Friends of the Chair;

(e) Requested the Friends of the Chair group to report back to the Commission at its forty-fourth session in 2013.

43/113
Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the World Bank (E/CN.3/2012/16) and expressed appreciation for the efforts of the World Bank and the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century, as well as other agencies and development partners, to develop the Busan Action Plan for Statistics and facilitated its adoption at the Busan High-level Forum on Aid Effectiveness;

(b) Expressed its appreciation for the broad consultative process involving statistical producers at both the national and international levels, as well as users of statistics in the public sector and civil society;

(c) Fully endorsed the objectives of the Plan and the five steps needed to strengthen national statistical systems in developing countries and to increase the effectiveness of the support provided by development partners;

(d) Urged that the plan of implementation be flexible, taking into account country-specific development capacity, existing strategic plans and statistical priorities, and in collaboration with international agencies and development partners;

(e) Urged the global community to provide sustained support for the full implementation of the plan through the adoption of a coordinated and consultative approach, and noted that improved accessibility of statistics, gender statistics and the special needs of fragile and small States were particular areas of focus;

(f) Welcomed Member States and other development partners who signalled their intention to support the plan of implementation with financial resources and technical assistance;

(g) Welcomed the opportunity to review the progress in implementation at its session in 2014 and requested the World Bank to prepare the necessary report.

43/114
Statistics of human development

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2012/17), which addressed the concerns expressed by the Commission at its forty-second session in 2011;

(b) Noted with satisfaction the steps that the Human Development Report Office had undertaken to improve consultation, communication and transparency in their processes with Member States in the context of the preparation of the 2011 *Human Development Report*;

(c) Urged the Human Development Report Office to continue its constructive engagement with National Statistical Offices in order to address some remaining issues, including, among others (i) the use of non-official or outdated data; (ii) the provision of sufficient lead time to respond to communications from the Human Development Report Office on data used; and (iii) technical issues involved in calculation.

43/115
Regional statistical development in Europe

The Statistical Commission:

(a) Welcomed the report of the Economic Commission for Europe (E/CN.3/2012/18) and extended its appreciation to the Economic Commission for Europe for the exhibition set up for the session;

(b) Expressed its congratulations on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Conference of European Statisticians and recognized the significant contributions that the Conference of European Statisticians has made to the advancement of the global statistical system;

(c) Acknowledged the effective coordination mechanism that the Conference of European Statisticians has established in the region as a good model to follow in other regions and globally.

43/116
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

The Statistical Commission took note of the oral report presented by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division concerning the current activities, plans and priorities of the Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015, as set out in an informal background paper that had been circulated.

43/117
Items for information

The Statistical Commission took note of the following reports, as well as the pertinent interventions by delegates:

Report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2012/7)

Report of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN/3/2012/19)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women (E/CN/3/2012/20)

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN/3/2012/21)

Report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN/3/2012/22)

Report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN/3/2012/23)

Report of the Inter-agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN/3/2012/24)

Report of the World Bank on the international Comparison Programme (E/CN/3/2012/25)

Report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN/3/2012/26)

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN/3/2012/27)

Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN/3/2012/28)

Report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN/3/2012/29)

Note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN/3/2012/30)

Report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN/3/2012/31)

Report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN/3/2012/32)

Chapter II
Items for discussion and decision

A. Programme review: population and housing censuses

1. The Commission considered item 3 (a) of its agenda at its 1st and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 2 March 2012. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United States of America on the 2010 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses (E/CN.3/2012/2), and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the United States.

2. At the 1st meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname, Japan, Mongolia, the Russian Federation, Mexico, Cameroon, China, Cuba, Australia, the United States, Norway, Hungary, Oman and Italy, and by the observers for Kuwait, the Republic of Korea, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Dominican Republic, Sweden, South Africa, Turkey, Samoa, the Philippines, Turkmenistan, France, Egypt, Ecuador, Paraguay, Timor-Leste, Ghana, Ethiopia, Brazil, Malaysia, Poland and Greece.

3. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observer for the European Union and the representatives for the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

4. Also at the 1st meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (a) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/101).

B. Crime statistics

6. The Commission considered item 3 (b) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 2 March 2012. At its 2nd meeting on 28 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico on crime statistics (E/CN.3/2012/3), and heard an introductory statement by the representative of Mexico.

7. At the 2nd meeting, on 28 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Mongolia, Cuba, Colombia, Germany, the United States, Italy and Morocco, as well as the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Dominican Republic, Turkey, Ecuador, Spain, the Republic of Korea, Brazil, Afghanistan and South Africa.

8. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the observer for Palestine.

9. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

10. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (b) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/102).

C. National accounts

11. The Commission considered item 3 (c) of its agenda at its 2nd and 6th meetings, on 28 February and 2 March 2012. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the Commission had before it two notes by the Secretary-General transmitting, respectively, the report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts (E/CN.3/2012/4) and the report of the Friends of the Chair on the barriers to the implementation of the 1993 System of National Accounts (E/CN.3/2012/5).

12. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the representative of Australia and the Director of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made introductory statements.

13. Also at the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of China, Colombia, Cuba, Germany, Japan, Mongolia, Morocco, Cameroon and the United States, as well as the observers for Denmark, New Zealand, the Philippines, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sierra Leone, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Republic of Korea, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Malaysia, Tonga, Cape Verde, Afghanistan and Brazil.

14. At the same meeting, statements were made by representatives of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Economic Commission for Europe, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

15. Also at the 2nd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

16. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (c) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/103).

D. Agricultural statistics

17. The Commission considered item 3 (d) of its agenda at its 2nd, 3rd and 6th meetings, on 28 and 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 28 and 29 February, the Commission had before it notes by the Secretary-General transmitting, respectively, the report of the Committee of the Friends of the Chair on

agricultural statistics (E/CN.3/2012/6) and the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2012/7).

18. At the 2nd meeting, on 28 February, the observer for Brazil made an introductory statement.

19. At the 2nd and 3rd meetings, on 28 and 29 February, statements were made by the representatives of Japan, Mongolia, the United States, and the Russian Federation, Australia, Colombia and Morocco, as well as the observers for Ethiopia, the Dominican Republic, Jordan, Guyana, Vanuatu, Senegal, Cape Verde, South Africa, Peru, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Georgia, Brazil, Paraguay and Afghanistan.

20. Also at the 2nd and 3rd meetings, statements were made by the observer for the European Union and the representatives of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Economic Commission for Africa and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

21. At the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

22. At its 3rd meeting, on 29 February, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Wye Group on statistics on rural development and agriculture household income (E/CN.3/2012/7).

23. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (d) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/104).

E. Environmental-economic accounting

24. The Commission considered item 3 (e) of its agenda at its 3rd and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 3rd meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting (E/CN.3/2012/8).

25. At the 3rd meeting, the representative of Australia made an introductory statement and the Director of the Statistics Division made a statement.

26. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Norway, the Czech Republic, China, Germany, Italy, the United States, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Suriname, Colombia, Mexico and Australia, as well as the observers for Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Liberia, India, Finland, the Philippines, Egypt, Brazil, France and the Republic of Korea.

27. Also at the same meeting a statement was made by the representative of the Economic Community of West African States.

28. At the 3rd meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

29. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (e) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/105).

F. Environment statistics

30. The Commission considered item 3 (f) of its agenda at its 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 3rd meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the revision of the Framework for the Development of Environment Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/9), and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Environment and Energy Statistics Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division.

31. At the 3rd and 4th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the Czech Republic, Norway, the Netherlands, Cameroon, the United States, Suriname, Australia, the United Republic of Tanzania and Cuba, as well as the observers for Jamaica, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand, Paraguay, Ecuador, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt and the Dominican Republic.

32. At the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

33. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (f) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/106).

G. Energy statistics

34. The Commission considered item 3 (g) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 4th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the compilation of natural gas statistics (E/CN.3/2012/10), and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Industrial and Energy Statistics Section of the United Nations Statistics Division.

35. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Norway and the Russian Federation, as well as the observers for Egypt and the Republic of Korea.

36. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

37. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (g) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/107).

H. Statistics for economies based on natural resources

38. The Commission considered item 3 (h) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 4th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the joint report of Mongolia and Australia on the establishment of an Ulaanbaatar city group on statistics for economies based on natural resources (E/CN.3/2012/11).

39. At the 4th meeting, on 29 February, the representative of Mongolia made an introductory statement.

40. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, Oman, the Russian Federation, Suriname, Australia, China, Cuba, the United Kingdom, Germany and Norway, as well as the observers for Angola, Côte d'Ivoire, India and Peru.

41. At the same meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

42. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

43. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (h) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/108).

I. Information and communications technology statistics

44. The Commission considered item 3 (i) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 4th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technology for Development (E/CN.3/2012/12), and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the International Telecommunication Union.

45. At the 4th meeting, on 29 February, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, the Niger and Cuba, as well as the observers for Jordan, the Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Finland, Nigeria, the Philippines, Rwanda, Paraguay, Sweden, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea and the Bahamas.

46. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

47. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (i) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/109).

J. National quality assurance frameworks

48. The Commission considered item 3 (j) of its agenda at its 4th and 6th meetings, on 29 February and 2 March 2012. At its 4th meeting, on 29 February, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on national quality assurance frameworks (E/CN.3/2012/13), and heard an introductory statement by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division.

49. At the 4th meeting, on 29 February, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Cameroon, Japan and the United States, as well as the observers for Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, India, Canada, Egypt, South Africa, Ethiopia, Poland and Paraguay.

50. At the same meeting, statements were also made by the observer for the European Union and the representative of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations secretariat.

51. Also at the 4th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

52. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (j) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/110).

K. Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

53. The Commission considered item 3 (k) of its agenda at its 4th, 5th and 6th meetings, on 29 February, and 1 and 2 March 2012. At its 4th and 5th meetings, on 29 February and 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/14).

54. At the 4th meeting, on 29 February, the representative of the United States made an introductory statement.

55. At the 4th and 5th meetings, on 29 February and 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of Japan and Italy, as well as the observers for Turkey, New Zealand, the Dominican Republic, Iran (Islamic Republic of), South Africa, the Philippines, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Uganda, Finland, Argentina, Brazil, India, Peru, Canada and Greece.

56. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, statements were also made by the representative of the International Statistical Institute and the observer for Palestine.

57. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

58. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (k) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/111).

L. Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations

59. The Commission considered item 3 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. At its 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations (E/CN.3/2012/15), and heard an introductory statement by the Director of the Statistics Division.

60. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Morocco, Australia, the Niger (on behalf of the African Group), Italy and the United States, as well as the observers for India, South Africa, Brazil and the Philippines.

61. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the International Labour Organization, as well as the observer for Palestine.

62. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

63. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (l) of its agenda. The Commission adopted the draft decision, as amended during the discussion (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/112).

M. Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development

64. The Commission considered item 3 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development (E/CN.3/2012/16), and heard an introductory statement by the representative of the World Bank.

65. Also at the 5th meeting, on 1 March, statements were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, Cameroon, Cuba, the United Republic of Tanzania, Morocco, Suriname, Mongolia and the Niger, as

well as the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), Egypt, Kuwait, Malawi, Spain, Afghanistan, Nauru, the Republic of Korea, India, Bangladesh and Vanuatu.

66. At the same meeting, statements were made by the observers for the European Union and Palestine, as well as the representatives of the African Development Bank and the Caribbean Community.

67. Also at the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

68. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (m) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/113).

N. Statistics of human development

69. The Commission considered item 3 (n) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Programme on statistics of human development (E/CN.3/2012/17).

70. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the United Nations Development Programme made an introductory statement.

71. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Netherlands, China, Cuba, Mongolia, Morocco, Suriname and Oman, as well as the observers for Iran (Islamic Republic of), Angola, the Philippines, Samoa, Turkey, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Ecuador.

72. Also at the 5th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

73. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

74. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (n) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/114).

O. Regional statistical development in Europe

75. The Commission considered item 3 (o) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Economic Commission for Europe on regional statistical development in Europe (E/CN.3/2012/18).

76. At the 5th meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the Economic Commission for Europe made an introductory statement.

77. Also at the 5th meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division made concluding remarks.

Action taken by the Commission

78. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission had before it a paper submitted by the Rapporteur containing a draft decision for adoption by the Commission under item 3 (o) of its agenda, and adopted the draft decision (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/115).

Chapter III
Items for information

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings on 1 and 2 March 2012.

2. At the 5th and 6th meetings, statements were made by the representatives of the United Republic of Tanzania, Suriname, Japan, Botswana, Mongolia, the United States, Mexico, Cuba and Oman, as well as the observers for Côte d'Ivoire, Cape Verde, Kenya, Burkina Faso, Nauru, Egypt, Tonga, Georgia, the Philippines and Bangladesh.

3. At the 6th meeting, statements were also made by the representative of the World Health Organization and the observers for the Caribbean Community and the International Statistical Institute.

A. Gender statistics

Action taken by the Commission

4. The Commission considered item 4 (a) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2012/19), and on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women (E/CN.3/2012/20).

5. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the reports of the Secretary-General on gender statistics (E/CN.3/2012/19), and on the follow-up to the recommendations of the Friends of the Chair on statistical indicators for measuring violence against women (E/CN.3/2012/20) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

B. Washington Group on Disability Statistics

Action taken by the Commission

6. The Commission considered item 4 (b) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/21).

7. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Washington Group on Disability Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/21) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

C. International merchandise trade statistics

Action taken by the Commission

8. The Commission considered item 4 (c) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2012/22).

9. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/2012/22) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

D. Statistics of international trade in services

Action taken by the Commission

10. The Commission considered item 4 (d) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2012/23).

11. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Task Force on Statistics of International Trade in Services (E/CN.3/2012/23) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

E. Finance statistics

Action taken by the Commission

12. The Commission considered item 4 (e) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/24).

13. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance Statistics (E/CN.3/2012/24) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

F. International Comparison Programme

Action taken by the Commission

14. The Commission considered item 4 (f) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2012/25).

15. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the World Bank on the International Comparison Programme (E/CN.3/2012/25) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

G. Ottawa Group on Price Indices

Action taken by the Commission

16. The Commission considered item 4 (g) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2012/26).

17. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Ottawa Group on Price Indices (E/CN.3/2012/26) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

H. Coordination and integration of statistical programmes

Action taken by the Commission

18. The Commission considered item 4 (h) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2012/27).

19. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities (E/CN.3/2012/27) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

I. International economic and social classifications

Action taken by the Commission

20. The Commission considered item 4 (i) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2012/28).

21. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/2012/28) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

J. Development indicators

Action taken by the Commission

22. The Commission considered item 4 (j) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2012/29).

23. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on development indicators for monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (E/CN.3/2012/29) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

K. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions

Action taken by the Commission

24. The Commission considered item 4 (k) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it a note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2012/30).

25. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the note by the Secretary-General on policy decisions of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council that are relevant to the work of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2012/30) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

L. Global geospatial information management

Action taken by the Commission

26. The Commission considered item 4 (l) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2012/31).

27. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on global geospatial information management (E/CN.3/2012/31) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

M. World Statistics Day

Action taken by the Commission

28. The Commission considered item 4 (m) of its agenda at its 5th and 6th meetings, on 1 and 2 March 2012. It had before it the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2012/32).

29. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on World Statistics Day (E/CN.3/2012/32) (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/117).

Chapter IV
Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division)

1. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2012. It heard an oral report by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division.

2. At the 6th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Italy and Cameroon.

3. At the same meeting, the Director of the Statistics Division made a statement.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Suriname and Cuba, as well as the observers for South Africa and Finland.

Action taken by the Commission

5. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission took note of the oral report made by the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division. In particular, the Commission took note of the proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2014-2015, as set out in the informal background paper that had been circulated (see chap. I, sect. B, decision 43/116).

Chapter V

Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission

1. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2012. It had before it the following documents, which were introduced by the Chief of the Statistical Services Branch of the United Nations Statistics Division:

(a) Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission (E/CN.3/2012/L.2);

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Statistical Commission, 2012-2015 (E/CN.3/2012/33).

2. At the 6th meeting, on 2 March, statements were made by the representatives of Italy and Mongolia.

Action taken by the Commission

3. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission approved the provisional agenda for its forty-fourth session (E/CN.3/2012/L.2), and entrusted the Bureau with streamlining and finalizing it. The Commission also decided to recommend it to the Council for approval (see chap. I, sect. A).

4. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that its forty-fourth session be held from 26 February to 1 March 2013 (see chap. I, sect. A).

5. Also at its 6th meeting, the Commission approved its draft multi-year programme of work for 2012-2015 (E/CN.3/2012/33).

Chapter VI
Report of the Commission on its forty-third session

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at its 6th meeting, on 2 March 2012.

2. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur introduced the draft report of the Commission on its forty-third session (E/CN.3/2012/L.3) and an informal paper containing draft decisions.

3. Also at the 6th meeting, statements on the text of the informal paper were made by the representatives of the United Kingdom, Suriname, Morocco, Mexico, Cuba, the Netherlands, China, the United States, Italy, Australia, Colombia, Germany, the Russian Federation and Japan, as well as the observers for Afghanistan, Kuwait, Egypt, New Zealand, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, India and Canada.

4. Also at the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Economic Commission for Africa, the Economic Commission for Europe and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, as well as the observers for the European Union and for Palestine.

5. Also at the 6th meeting, the International Statistical Institute made an announcement.

6. At the same meeting, the Director of the United Nations Statistics Division responded to points raised during the discussion.

Action taken by the Commission

7. At its 6th meeting, on 2 March, the Commission adopted the draft report on its 43rd session, including the draft decisions contained therein, as orally revised, and entrusted the Rapporteur with streamlining and finalizing it. Following the adoption of the draft report, the Chair made a statement.

Chapter VII
Organization of the session

A. Opening and duration of the session

1. The Statistical Commission held its forty-third session at United Nations Headquarters from 28 February to 2 March 2012. The Commission held six meetings (1st to 6th).

B. Attendance

2. The session was attended by the representatives of the 24 States members of the Commission. Also in attendance were observers for other Member States of the United Nations and for non-Member States, representatives of United Nations system organizations and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in document E/CN.3/2012/INF/1.

C. Election of officers

3. At its 1st meeting, on 28 February 2012, the Commission elected the following officers by acclamation:

Chair:
Gabriella Vukovich (Hungary)

Vice-Chairs:
Jill Matheson (United Kingdom)
Eduardo Sojo (Mexico)
Jiantang Ma (China)

Rapporteur:
Anna N. Majelantle (Botswana)

D. Agenda and organization of work

4. Also at its 1st meeting, on 28 February 2012, the Commission adopted its provisional agenda, as contained in document E/CN.3/2012/1. The agenda read as follows:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Items for discussion and decision:
   (a) Programme review: population and housing censuses;
   (b) Crime statistics;
   (c) National accounts;
   (d) Agricultural statistics;

(e) Environmental-economic accounting;

(f) Environment statistics;

(g) Energy statistics;

(h) Statistics for economies based on natural resources;

(i) Information and communication technology statistics;

(j) National quality assurance frameworks;

(k) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

(l) Coordination of statistical activities in the United Nations;

(m) Efforts in developing a plan of action on statistical development;

(n) Statistics of human development;

(o) Regional statistical development in Europe.

4. Items for information:

(a) Gender statistics;

(b) Washington Group on Disability Statistics;

(c) International merchandise trade statistics;

(d) Statistics of international trade in services;

(e) Finance statistics;

(f) International Comparison Programme;

(g) Ottawa Group on Price Indices;

(h) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

(i) International economic and social classifications;

(j) Development indicators;

(k) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

(l) Global geospatial information management;

(m) World Statistics Day.

5. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

6. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

7. Report of the Commission on its forty-third session.

5. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.3/2012/L.1).

6. Also at the 1st meeting, the Commission invited the following organizations to participate as observers at its forty-third session: the Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, the International Energy Forum Secretariat, the Observatoire economique et statistique

d'Afrique subsaharienne, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the International Energy Agency.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Commission at its forty-third session are available from the website of the United Nations Statistics Division at http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/sc2012.htm.

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